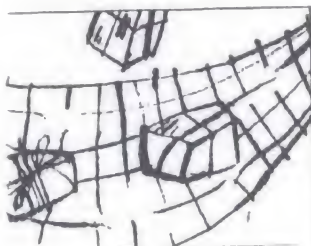


Quarterly reporter George
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es Books/Random House

Mary McGrory is on vacation. Her column will resume when she returns.

BY SAM HEIDOLY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

IN THE WAKE OF THE TWA 800 CRASH, A WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION PROPOSED SWEEPING CHANGES IN AIRLINE SECURITY. HERE ARE TWO VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK.



By Jefferson Morley

AFTER 33 years the discussion of the Kennedy assassination is stuck between the myth of the "lone nut" and the myth of conspiracy. The huge accumulation of facts about Nov. 22, 1963 amounts to something more than trivia but less than historical truth. Consensus, after a third of a century, remains elusive.

Indeed, since the bitter debate around Oliver Stone's conspiratorial 1991 film "JFK," the very idea of a consensus history of the Kennedy assassination has sounded quaint. In general, the notion that one version of history can suit all parties concerned has become embattled since the cultural convulsions of the 1960s. In the particular case of the murdered president, what possible telling could possibly satisfy all? A majority of

Jefferson Morley is an editor in the Outlook section of The Washington Post. This article first appeared in the AARC Quarterly, published by the Assassination Archives and Research Center in Washington, D.C.

Americans, according to polls, are convinced or strongly suspect there was a conspiracy. Many leading opinion makers at news media organizations and some historians assure us that there is no credible evidence of such. And never the twain shall meet.

Yet we are closer than ever to having a firm factual basis for an assassination consensus. The JFK Assassination Records Act, passed unanimously by Congress in 1992, has resulted in the release of hundreds of thousands of pages of assassination-related documents since 1993. A five-member civilian review board, under the capable leadership of a federal judge, John Tunheim, has ordered the disclosure of another 2,000 documents. The board continues to take depositions and to pursue records that the FBI, the CIA, the National Security Agency and other federal entities want to keep secret.

Still, many tough-minded partisans who have dominated both sides of the JFK debate for years say that seeking assassination consensus is a fool's errand. The conspiracy theorists (or the

See KENNEDY, C2, Col 1

BACK TALK

The latest in an occasional series of reader responses to current topics.

IT'S YOUR TURN

Question: Liquor companies dropped their voluntary advertising on TV. So far, broadcast and cable networks declined such ads and the Federal Communications Commission is urging independent TV stations to do the same. Some advertising industry

observers predict that TV stations won't say no to liquor companies' money forever.

Does liquor advertising belong on television? Should the government impose a ban on all alcohol ads, including beer and wine, as it has with tobacco? Or is it none of the government's business?

Tell us your views in 200 words or less. We'll publish a sample of the most thoughtful or interesting comments on December 8. Submissions are due December 1. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Send e-mail to Outlook@Washpost.com or send regular mail to Outlook/Backtalk, The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, Washington DC 20071-5530.

we have for them. We want them to play within the schools, but there experience as a parent. My